

## Which saltwater beaches do you use?

The BEACH Program will monitor marine-water locations that get heavy recreational use and where there is a potential for pollution problems. Please complete and send in this questionnaire or use the BEACH Program Web site to tell us which beaches you use and what you do there.

Your name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Public marine beaches that you use:

1. Name and location of beach: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearby city/town: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Swim, ☐ Scuba, ☐ Surf, ☐ Wade,  
☐ Kayak, ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are there potential pollution problems that you are aware of at this beach?

☐ No ☐ Yes Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there other potential health or safety risks that you are aware of?

☐ No ☐ Yes Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name and location of beach: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearby city/town: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Swim, ☐ Scuba, ☐ Surf, ☐ Wade,  
☐ Kayak, ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are there potential pollution problems that you are aware of at this beach?

☐ No ☐ Yes Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there other potential health or safety risks that you are aware of?

☐ No ☐ Yes Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*The symptoms of contact with polluted water include stomach ache, diarrhea, and ear, eye, and skin infections. If you have had these symptoms, notify your physician. After consulting with your physician, if you have reason to believe your symptoms were due to exposure to polluted saltwater, contact the county health department and tell us about your illness.*

Date you were in the salt water: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of day you were in the water: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of beach you were at: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearby city/town: \_\_\_\_\_, WA

Approximate water depth: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_

How long after you were in the water did you become sick? \_\_\_\_\_

How long did your symptoms last? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you see a doctor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Did anyone else become ill? \_\_\_\_\_

### Send questionnaires to:

Lynn Schneider, BEACH Program

Department of Ecology

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504

### Please contact Lynn at:

Phone: 360-407-6543

E-mail: [lysc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lysc461@ecy.wa.gov)

Web site: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/beach](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/beach)

*The Department of Ecology is an equal-opportunity agency and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled-veterans status, Vietnam era veterans status, or sexual orientation. If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in alternative format, contact Joan LeTourneau at 360-407-6764 (voice) or 360-407-6006 (TTY).*

## Washington State's

## Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication, & Health Program

## BEACH Program

Helping to keep  
Washington's beaches  
healthy places to recreate.



publication # 02-03-041 ♻️ printed on recycled paper

The BEACH Program will test the water quality of saltwater recreational beaches to protect your health. Water quality results and pollution events will be posted on a Web site and telephone hotline.

The BEACH Program is being developed collaboratively by several state and county agencies and the Surfrider Foundation. It will be administered by the state departments of Ecology and Health, in cooperation with local health authorities.

### **What is the goal of the BEACH Program?**

The goal is to reduce the risk of disease from using Washington's marine (saltwater) beaches.

### **Who pays for the program?**

A grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pays for the BEACH Program. If EPA funding is discontinued, the BEACH Program may also be discontinued.

### **How will the program reduce risks?**

The program will monitor heavily used saltwater beaches that potentially are polluted with bacteria. The results will be available to the public through a BEACH Web site and telephone hotline.

### **Why are fresh waters not covered?**

At this time, EPA specifies that dollars from the BEACH grant be spent to monitor marine waters.

### **How does a site get identified as "at-risk"?**

Sites will be identified through comments provided by the public, state agencies, county health authorities, and by assess-

ing the types of pollution sources in the area and the amount of time people are in the water.

### **Who will do the monitoring?**

County health authorities, Department of Ecology, or volunteer organizations will be responsible for sampling the water.

### **What will be monitored?**

The program will monitor water quality for bacteria, which indicate the possibility of pollution from sewage treatment plant problems, boating waste, malfunctioning septic systems, and animal waste.

### **How do you get sick from contacting polluted water?**

Water that contains infectious bacteria, viruses, and protozoa can cause stomach ache, diarrhea, ear, eye, and skin infections if people are directly exposed to it.

### **When are you most likely to get sick from swimming in marine water?**

You are most likely to get sick from swimming in marine water after a heavy rainfall. Pollution in beach water may be higher because water draining onto the beach or down a stream may contain sewage from malfunctioning sewer systems.

### **Does monitoring alone provide enough information to lower health risks from recreating in marine water?**

No! The BEACH Program also will manage a communication system to alert users about known pollution events. Evaluation of health risks using pollution sources and sanitary surveys will be used.

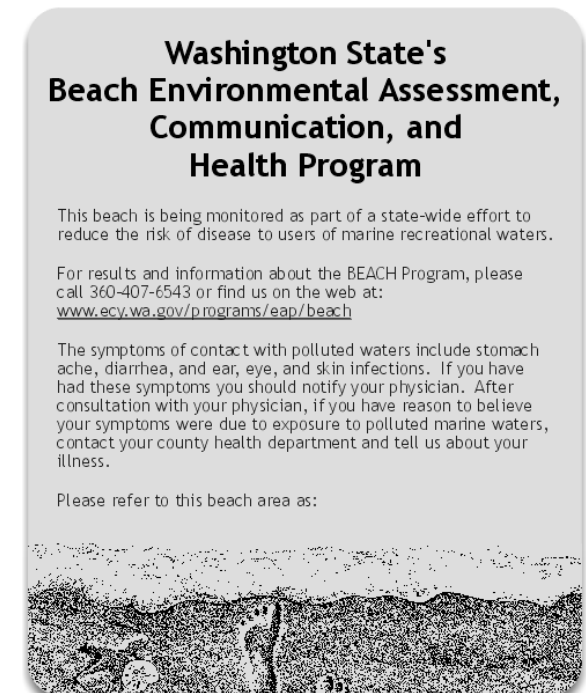
### **What stage of development is the program in?**

Guidance for the BEACH Program is being developed. Ideas and comments from people who will use the information provided by the program are always welcome.

### **When will monitoring results be available?**

The results should be available via Web site and telephone hotline by summer 2003.

### **A sign similar to the one below will be posted at beaches which are being monitored by the BEACH Program.**



Let us know if there is a public beach you are concerned about that you would like to have monitored.